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Message Text

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42
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 DHA-02 EB-07

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 EUR-12 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /103 W
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R 301603Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3110
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, NI, US, XT
SUBJ: WUSHISHI ON ANGOLA

1. AT THE OPENING SESSION JANUARY 28 OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS' CONFERENCE ON "NIGERIA AND THE WORLD," A SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED SPOKESMAN--THE COMMISSIONER FOR INDUSTRIES, COL. M.I. WUSHISHI--OFFERED SOME NEW VARIATIONS ON THE FMG'S STANDARD ANGOLAN THEMES. NIIA DIRECTOR AKINYEMI INTRODUCED WUSHISHI, TO THE PERCEPTIBLE SURPRISE OF THE AUDIENCE, AS "ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS." HE LATER REASSURED THE CONFERENCE THAT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED TO COMMISSIONER GARBA; HE WAS MERELY "OUT OF THE COUNTRY."

2. COMMENT: GARBA HAS BEEN IN NEW YORK FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, ACCORDING TO MEA SOURCES. THEY SAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN HE WILL RETURN, AND THEY HAVE DIVULGED NO CLUES AS TO THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP. WE SUSPECT IT MAY HAVE TO DO WITH THE NAMIBIA/ANGOLA DEBATE.

3. WHILE WUSHISHI READ HIS SPEECH WITH REASONABLE ASSURANCE,
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IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN ITS

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PREPARATION. HE FOLLOWED MORE OR LESS THE STANDARD FMG LINE, BUT PLACED UNUSUAL STRESS ON ALLEGED ECONOMIC DESPERATION OF THE WESTERN POWERS AS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THEIR ANGOLAN POLICY. SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA, WUSHISHI SAID, IS A DESPERATE, SELFISH (AND BY IMPLICATION ILLEGITIMATE) GAMBLE, AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT APARTHEID'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE "AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE INFAMOUS LISBON-PRETORIA-SALISBURY AXIS." THIS WAS A CHALLENGE TO THE DIGNITY OF AFRICA, AND VIGILANT AFRICAN NATIONS MUST STAND TOGETHER AND SUPPORT A "DYNAMIC AND PROGRESSIVE" ANGOLA IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN FREEDOM.

4. TO THIS FAIRLY STANDARD EXPOSITION OF THE NIGERIAN VIEW WUSHISHI ADDED EXTENSIVE REFERENCES TO THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ANGOLA TO THE WESTERN INDUSTRAIALIZED WORLD. (HE ALSO MENTIONED ITS IMPORTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA, BUT FAILED TO EXPLORE THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS IMPORTANCE.) TO HIS DENUNCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S "EVIL DESIGN" HE ADDED THE FOLLOWING: "WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS ACTING AS THE AGENT OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM FROM WHICH IT DERIVES ITS SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. IT IS QUITE NATURAL TO EXPECT THAT WITH THE PREVALENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE RESULTING ECONOMIC DEPRESSION IN WESTERN NATIONS, THE SITUATION HAS BECOME GRAVE ENOUGH AS TO TEMPT THE WESTERN NATIONS INTO TAKING A DESPERATE PLUNGE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, AT ANY COST."

5. LATER IN THE SPEECH, IN CALLING FOR AFRICAN NATIONS TO STAND TOGETHER, WUSHISHI DESCRIBED "THE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AND AGGRESSION BEING PRESENTLY CARRIED OUT IN ANGOLA" AS "SYMBOLIC OF THE ATTITUDE AND DESIGNS WHICH WESTERN IMPERIALISM HAS TOWARDS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT." NOT ONCE DID WUSHISHI MENTION THE SOVIET UNION OR CUBA.
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